



DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Spring 2005

Quarterly Newsletter

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Newton C. Gordon, DDS, MS

The Board celebrates many recent accomplishments:

- ✓ A new Dental Materials Fact Sheet was adopted
- ✓ The first foreign dental school has been approved – LaSalle in Mexico
- ✓ The diversion program continues to assist dental professionals as they overcome chemical dependency
- ✓ Examination options may expand for dental graduates if the Western Regional Exam Board (WREB) passes the occupational analysis audit
- ✓ The Access to Care committee developed support for the dentally underserved in California



Exam space has been a concern for many candidates. However, all candidates for the clinical exam have been accommodated. Space for Restorative Technique candidates, though, does remain scarce. This situation is due to the far higher number of candidates applying for the test than the testing facilities can accommodate.

My vision: Dental education does not end on the graduation stage or with the license. To be current means continuous learning – asking questions, challenging evidence and assumptions.

My goals for 2005 are:

1. Redefine the examination process and insurance of compliance with the mandates of SB1865 (WREB) and other associated bills
2. Work with the Board members and Board staff to enhance consumer protection
3. Review issues in the workforce and their relationship to consumer services

I will continue to seek support from the Board members, the administration and organized dentistry to develop the societal agenda related to dental care for the people of California.

Dr. Gordon's Bio:

Dr. Gordon has served as the chief of Dentistry/ Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Service at San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center since 1979. An oral and maxillofacial surgeon, he specializes in dental implants, dentoalveolar surgery, oral and facial infection, preprosthetic surgery, reconstructive surgery and maxillofacial trauma. His area of research interest is pain mechanisms and management. Currently his focus is analgesic synergy and the effect of gender in the treatment of dental postoperative pain.

Dr. Gordon received his dental degree from McGill University, Canada, and achieved his oral and maxillofacial surgery residency and graduate degree at the University of Illinois Medical Center, Chicago. He is the recipient of numerous prestigious teaching, leadership, and civic awards and honors. In 1999, Dr. Gordon was appointed Honorary Consul (Diplomatic Corps) of Jamaica with responsibility for San Francisco and Northern California.

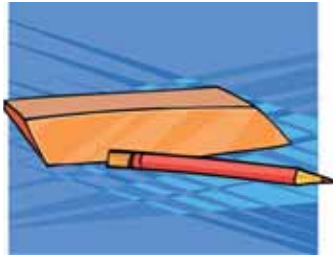


EXAMS

Western Regional Exam Board (WREB):

Senate Bill 1865 passed, allowing the Dental Board to accept licensing applications from candidates who have passed the WREB pending the results of an audit and occupational analysis. The Department of Consumer Affairs' Office of Examination Resources (OER) anticipates completing the occupational analysis of California's dental practice and an audit of the WREB by September 30, 2005.

The Board is moving forward with regulations, so that if the WREB passes the audit, exam results will be accepted in lieu of the clinical



portion of the California dental licensing exam. This only applies to persons who passed the WREB after January 1, 2005. The Board will include updates in future editions of the Newsletter.

Restorative Technique (RT) Exam:

The Dental Board will be giving the RT exam two times a year through 2008. For 2005, the test dates are April 16-17 and November 12-13. To be eligible for the RT, all applicants had to qualify by July 12, 2004. Therefore, the applicant pool for all RT tests through 2008 is now closed. The maximum number of times an applicant can take the exam is four, although the Board cannot guarantee each applicant has four opportunities. Once an applicant has passed the RT, he/she is eligible to apply for the California dental licensure exam.

Graduates of foreign schools who did not qualify by July 2004 can become eligible for the California dental licensure exam by graduating from a 2-year international dental studies program at an ADA accredited dental school in the US. All of the California dental schools have programs for international students.



Stay informed!

Visit the Dental Board's Web site to keep informed on issues affecting you.

www.dbc.ca.gov

ANESTHESIA/SEDATION UPDATE

In the fall of 2002 the Board asked Dr. John Yagiela, DDS, PhD, UCLA School of Dentistry, Department of Anesthesiology, to chair a Blue Ribbon Panel on dental anesthesia. Dr. Yagiela and the other nine dental professionals on the Panel were charged with fact-finding concerning any and all aspects of dental anesthesia, using any means they considered worthy for obtaining valuable information.

Implementing the Panel's recommendations requires amending existing statutes and regulations. Many changes are non-substantive and standardize language to national guidelines. Others will result in more detailed medical history, physical evaluation, and sedation records for the administration of anesthesia or sedation. Minor changes will affect equipment and drug requirements. The Panel also recommended the regulation of adult oral conscious sedation and the Board has adopted statutory language that is still subject to approval by the legislature.

Last month the Board sponsored training courses for general anesthesia (GA) and conscious sedation (CS) permit holders. Although all permit holders are encouraged to attend these courses, it is required for those who want to apply for appointment as Evaluators for the GA and CS onsite inspection and evaluation program. Dr. Christine Quinn and Dr. John Yagiela presented materials on expected responses to emergency scenarios. More than 250 were in attendance.



DENTAL ASSISTING

LAW CHANGES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2005

Senate Bill 1546 was signed into law by the Governor that will substantially change the regulation of dental assisting in the future. The changes include: (1) allowing RDAs to apply pit and fissure sealants under certain conditions; (2) the establishment of three specialty licensure classifications (Registered Orthodontic Assistant, Registered Oral Surgery Assistant, and Registered Restorative Assistant); and (3) allowing EFs who become licensed on or after January 1, 2007, to place amalgam restorations and certain composite restorations. For changes that were effective on January 1, 2005, please go to —

<http://www.comda.ca.gov/sb1546-2005.html>

For changes that will be effective January 1, 2007, please go to —

<http://www.comda.ca.gov/sb1546-2007.html>



FOREIGN SCHOOL APPROVAL

In 1997, Assembly Bill 1116 was enacted to provide for the evaluation and approval of those foreign dental schools that provide dental education equivalent to that of similar accredited institutions in the United States. In 2000, regulations were developed and implemented that created the approval process. The first school to receive this approval is the Universidad de La Salle, located in Guanajuato, Mexico. Their approval was granted on December 27, 2004.

Students who graduate from de La Salle with the proper credentials will be eligible to take the clinical exam. They will not have to fulfill any other educational requirements.



When a site visit is scheduled for a school, such things as curriculum, plant facilities, faculty qualifications, student attendance and other relevant factors are reviewed. The site team consists of four persons: a California dentist familiar with the language and cultural issues of the particular country; a Board member; and two California dental educators who have extensive experience in the accreditation process. The schools do not become “accredited” in the sense of receiving accreditation from a national organization. They become “an approved foreign dental school” whose curriculum is equivalent to that of a dental school in California.

In March of 2003, the College of Dental Surgery in Manipal, India applied for the same approval as de La Salle. Board staff continues to work with the College of Dental Surgery to schedule an onsite visit sometime in the spring of 2005.



DIVERSION PROGRAM UPDATE

The Dental Board's Diversion

Program assists dental professionals who have had problems with alcohol and chemical addiction. Since July 2003 the contract for the clinical management of the program has been with Maximus, a national corporation that provides services to government. They are working closely with the Board to improve many components of monitoring, reporting, and quality control assessment. The Board's program manager is Georgetta Coleman-Griffith, and the program coordinator is Karen Davies.



The Board welcomes applications from those who wish to serve on the Diversion Evaluation Committees. Presently there is a vacancy on the northern committee for an MD or psychologist with chemical dependency expertise. For more information, see “Diversion Program” on our Web site.



LICENSE BY CREDENTIAL (LBC)

Since program inception in January 2003, about 900 LBC applications have been approved. As required, a report was sent to the legislature before January 2005 on the impact of LBC on the availability of dentists in California. In July 2004, 699 questionnaires were mailed with 72% returned; the data from these 502 returned questionnaires showed that 15 dentists went into identified dental shortage areas, nine of which are in rural areas. Also, eight dentists have been added to those working in public health agencies.

A new law took effect in 2005 affecting LBC applicants. Now, even those who have been in faculty practice must meet the clinical practice requirement. Additionally, the qualifying clinical practice time (5,000 hours) needs to be within the last seven years. Everything needed to apply is now available online. See “Licensure by Credential” on our Web site.



WHO WORKS FOR YOU?



Meet
Anita Dowty

Over the course of her 14 years with the Dental Board, Anita has worked in many departments. Therefore, she is often sought for advice and assistance. A large portion of her work involves the licensing of dental professionals, but she also takes care of the permit programs such as Special Permits for faculty, General Anesthesia, Conscious Sedation, Oral Conscious Sedation for minors and Oral Maxillofacial Surgery.

After work, Anita derives much pleasure from her grandchildren. And she continues to dream about planting the perfect flower garden!



NEW ON THE

Check out the
new additions to our Web site:



- ◆ Dental Practice Act – the last edition, 2002, is available under Statutes & Regulations
- ◆ Enforcement – Accusations, disciplinary decisions, citations, and malpractice judgments are now listed under Enforcement
- ◆ Address/name change
- ◆ And much more!



GOODBYES

BOARD MEMBERS:

✍ **Michael Pinkerton**, a Sacramento attorney, was reappointed as a public member in 2002. On December 12, 2004, he was appointed Deputy Attorney General at the Department of Justice. He was the chair of the Enforcement committee and also served on the Continuing Education and Legislative committees.

✍ **Dr. Ariane Terlet** was appointed as a public health member in April 2004. Her term expired January 2005. She was the chair of the Continuing Education, Legislative, and the Foreign Dental School committees. She was also active on the Examination, Appeals, and Licensing committees. She continues her work as the Dental Director at La Clinica De La Raza in Oakland, which provides medical and dental services to underprivileged people.

✍ **Dr. Richard Benveniste** was appointed to the Board multiple times by different governors since 1995. He finished his service in January 2005. Besides serving on the Enforcement, Legislative, and General Anesthesia committees, he was also on the subcommittee for the Dental Materials Fact Sheet. Dr. Benveniste continues to practice periodontics in the San Fernando Valley and stays active in dental societies.

STAFF:

✍ Legislative analyst **Linda Madden** was offered a position with the California Department of Forestry as an Intelligence Officer.

